

**WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING**  
**WILLMAR, MINNESOTA**

February 17, 2004  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Lester Heitke. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Heitke, Council Members Doug Reese, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Denis Anderson, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, and David Chapin; Present 8, Absent 1 - Nancy Houlahan was excused from the meeting.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Fire Chief Marv Calvin, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Proposed additions to the agenda included consideration of a plat certificate of correction, report from Mayor Pro Tempore Reese, and announcements regarding a leadership program, Junior Miss, Celebration of Cultures and United Way.

The Council requested that the Planning Commission Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Reese offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of February 2, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of February 9, Building Inspection Report for January, Housing Redevelopment Authority Minutes of January 20, Community Education and Recreation Board Minutes of January 30, Senior Center Minutes of February 4, 2004; Police Commission Minutes of December 17, and Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of December 18, 2003. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

The Council discussed Planning Commission items relating to the Trentwood Estates Preliminary Plat and Erickson Land Company Conditional Use Permit Planned Unit Development, and Council Member Anderson moved to table these items. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried. Council Member Anderson moved to approve the balance of the Planning Commission Minutes of February 11, 2004, with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

Council Member DeBlieck moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation of the appointment of Carol Laumer to the Planning Commission. Council Member Chapin seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:18 p.m. Mayor Heitke opened the hearing on the 2004 Street and Other Improvements. Public Works Director Odens explained the purpose of the hearing is to review and explain the proposed improvements and estimated cost and to obtain input from interested parties. Proposed improvements included reconstruction, overlay, new construction, underground utilities and miscellaneous projects. Mayor Heitke recognized several citizens who voiced their opposition to the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest, 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast, and Pacific Avenue Southwest improvements. Upon hearing all those who wished to be heard and reading letters received, Mayor Heitke closed the hearing at 8:35 p.m.

The Council discussed the issues addressed by the citizens concerning longer range

planning and earlier notification. Following discussion, Council Member Chapin moved to table the 2004 Improvement Project with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke called for a recess at 9:10 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Mayor Heitke recognized Dawn Vogel and Alessandro Gius from the Center for Cross-Cultural Health who presented an overview and preliminary findings regarding the "Changing Communities: Willmar, a Cross-Cultural Journey Project." Changing Communities is a community-wide initiative on cultural competency in Willmar to address the changing needs due to growth in the number of residents from ethnic, minority and recent immigrant communities. Launched in April 2003, the first phase included a community-wide assessment and a parallel organizational assessment at Affiliated Community Medical Center Urgent Care. A primary purpose of the community assessment was to identify and streamline existing strengths and initiatives underway, provide recommendations for continued growth and steps to move the City towards its goals as a culturally responsive city. Ms. Vogel and Mr. Gius explained preliminary findings and explained the next steps which include the following: continue to gather information, network and build relationships; identify coalition members, define relationship with cultural liaison; and select participants for Community Leadership Program and create local steering committee to lead initiative. Mayor Heitke thanked Ms. Vogel and Mr. Gius for their presentation, and this matter was received for information.

Mayor Heitke acknowledged that no one had signed up to address the City Council during its scheduled Open Forum.

The Finance Committee Report for February 9, 2004, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Fagerlie. There were four items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee reviewed a request from staff to reappropriate the 2003 unspent Mayor's Contingency Fund of \$730 to the Mayor's 2004 Budget. The budgeted annual amount for this purpose is \$1,500 and can be used in any fashion the Mayor deems appropriate.

The Committee was recommending approval of the request to reappropriate the funds as presented. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar to authorize the Finance Director to amend the General Fund Mayor and Council Budget:

Increase:	Appropriations, Other Services, Mayor's Contingency	\$730.00
Decrease:	Future Budgets, Reserves	\$730.00

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 2 Staff updated the Committee on the financial status of the Dorothy A. Olson Aquatic Center project. All Funds have been obligated noting any change orders to be funded out of the contingency with the pool contractor. This matter will continue to be monitored, and the Committee updated if action is needed.

Community Education and Recreation Director Brisendine explained a recommendation from the Community Education and Recreation Advisory Board to purchase a second Water Slide. If the slide is purchased at later date the price, would likely increase from \$69,300 to \$100,000.

A motion was made to direct staff to find and recommend a funding source for the purchase of a second slide at the Dorothy A. Olson Aquatic Center. Absent a majority vote, this matter was referred to Council with no recommendation.

Following discussion, Council Member Fagerlie moved to direct staff to find and recommend a funding source for the purchase of a second slide at the Dorothy A. Olson Aquatic Center. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 The Committee discussed a number of financial matters as they relate to the new Airport Project. The Committee will continue to receive monthly updates as these issues are worked out and the project continues. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed the following reports: 2004 State Auditors Budget Data Form and the Willmar Community Foundation Annual Statement. This matter was for information only.

The Finance Committee Report for February 9, 2004, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report for February 10, 2004, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were six items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee reviewed a schedule developed by Springsted and adopted by the Council in March 2001, indicating that the City needs to increase current sewer rates by 6.35 percent. This increase is scheduled for each year through 2015 in order to finance improvements for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Staff recommended adjusting the rates with an amendment to the ordinance consistent with the 6.35 percent.

The Committee was recommending the Council Introduce the ordinance amendment for hearing on March 1, 2004. Council Member Fagerlie offered a motion to introduce an Ordinance Amending Sections 2, 3 and 5 of the Rate Schedule for Users of the City of Willmar Waste Treatment Plant. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 2 Members of the Willmar Baseball Boosters Association appeared before the Committee to present a draft recognition policy for the Willmar Baseball Stadium. The intent of the policy is to make sure the Council is familiar with how the new ballpark would look and allows for major donor recognition. Sponsors would be allowed to advertise in the outfield with signage on the fences done in a tasteful manner, easily maintained and approved by the building committee and City of Willmar. The revenue generated would be earmarked for future enhancement of the park.

The Committee was recommending the Council adopt the Recognition Policy as presented. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works/Safety

Committee with Council Member Dokken seconding the motion, which carried.

Mayor Heitke recognized Rick Maursetter who announced that the Bill Taunton family donated \$100,000 towards the project and it was the recommendation of the Baseball Boosters to name the new stadium after the Taunton family. Council Member Christianson moved to name the new stadium "Taunton Stadium" with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 The Committee reviewed with Del Sheets of Waters Edge Design Group, architect for the Baseball Stadium Project, phase 2 plans and specifications. The project consists of construction of the grand stand including ramps and steps, as well as grading, lighting, and relocation of the existing building to be used for ticket sales.

The Committee was recommending the Council approve the plans and specifications for Phase II of the Willmar Baseball Stadium with a bid opening of March 22, 2004. Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member DeBleck, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS the City Engineer of the City of Willmar has presented to the City Council plans and specifications for Phase II of the Willmar Baseball Stadium for the City of Willmar;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that:

Final plans and specifications are hereby approved, and publication of the advertisement for bids is herewith authorized. Bids will be publicly opened and read at 1:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of March, 2004, at the City Office Building, 333 Southwest Sixth Street, Willmar, Minnesota.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed a memorandum from staff regarding the increase in costs for publication of ordinances. Staff was recommending publishing lengthy ordinances in a summary form.

Following discussion, the Committee was recommending the Council approve publication of the CenterPoint Minnegasco franchise Ordinance in summary form. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the publication of the Ordinance Granting a Franchise to CenterPoint Minnegasco and Establishing Terms and Conditions in summary form. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 5 The Committee discussed the building permit fees for Baseball Stadium Project, and was recommending to the Council that staff be authorized to waive the City's building permit fee for Phase II of the Baseball Stadium Project. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works/Safety Committee with Council Member Fagerlie

seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 6 The Committee discussed incidents where the signal lights at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and First Street South have not cycled appropriately. This item was referred to staff.

Staff updated the Committee on snow removal in the recent weeks. The Central Business District has been cleaned by means of a snow emergency five times since January 27, 2004. This matter was for information only.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report for February 10, 2004, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and carried.

The Mayor and Council considered applications to renew Premise Permits to the Gambling Control Board from the VFW Post 1639 and Eagles Aerie 2334. Following discussion, Resolution No. 3 was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

### RESOLUTION NO. 3

REQUESTING THAT THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD  
APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR A PREMISE PERMIT FOR THE VFW POST 1639

WHEREAS, the VFW Post 1639 has applied to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board to obtain a Premise Permit for a Gambling License at the VFW Post 1639, 1108 East Hwy 12, Willmar, Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that the City approves of the Premise Permit for the VFW Post 1639 and respectfully requests that the State of Minnesota Gambling Control Board approve the Premise Permit to the VFW Post 1639.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Resolution No. 4 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Reese, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

### RESOLUTION NO. 4

REQUESTING THAT THE MINNESOTA GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD  
APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR A PREMISE PERMIT FOR THE EAGLES AERIE 2334

WHEREAS, the Eagles Aerie 2334 has applied to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board to obtain a Premise Permit for a Gambling License at the Eagles Aerie 2334, 136 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Willmar, Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that the City approves of the Premise Permit for the Eagles Aerie 2334 and respectfully requests that the State of Minnesota Gambling Control Board approve the Premise Permit to the Eagles Aerie 2334.  
Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration a Plat Certificate of Correction for Valley View Court. Mr. Peterson explained that the plat, adopted in 2000, contained an error regarding a reference to an outlot as “common area.” It was noted the Planning Commission has approved of the Certificate of Correction. Council Member DeBlieck moved to approve the Valley View Court Plat Certificate of Correction as presented. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

Council Member Reese updated the Mayor and Council on a recent trip to Washington D.C. with several local businessmen and City staff to meet with congressmen regarding the new Municipal Airport and Highway 23 projects and other funding concerns. This matter was received for information only.

Mayor Heitke offered congratulations to Willmar High School Senior Marie Thibault who was chosen as the 2004 Minnesota Junior Miss.

Mayor Heitke announced the “Celebration of Cultures” to be held at Kennedy School on February 28, 2004, and encouraged everyone to participate.

Mayor Heitke congratulated the United Way for their strong effort in exceeding their fundraising goal. A total of \$577,000 was raised for community programs

Council Member Reese informed the Mayor and Council of an upcoming leadership conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and the opportunity to participate in the event through a teleconference link to be held at the First Covenant Church on April 30, 2004. This matter was received for information only.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Community Development, February 19; Finance, February 23; and Public Works/Safety, February 24, 2004.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and carried.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

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SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL